

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Information or contents cannot be reproduced even from a regular storage medium which is encrypted in accordance with a predetermined encryption system, due to erroneous detection of
5 watermarks.

Detection of the watermarks and restriction over reproduction depending thereon is conducted only in a case where the medium is not encrypted. In case of detecting that the data is not encrypted in accordance with a predetermined encryption
10 system by an encryption detection circuit (10) and when the watermarks are detected by a watermark detection circuit (20), reproduction of the data is stopped by a reproduction restricting circuit (30). In a case that it is detected to be encrypted in the predetermined encryption system by the encryption detection
15 circuit (10), the reproduction restricting circuit (30) will not stop the reproduction thereof.